

In coordination with appropriate state and local agencies responsible for food safety, develop or ensure capacity of public health system to respond in a timely and appropriate manner to a food-borne illness or threat.

Strategies: What overarching approach(es) will be used to undertake this activity?

The Food Protection Program, working in conjunction with the MA Department of Agriculture, the MA Department of Environmental Protection, the Focus Area B Food Vulnerability Working Group, the Northeast Region Food Security Committee (a committee of the Northeast Food and Drug Officials Association), local boards of health, and industry will develop a multi-faceted, coordinated approach to preventing and responding to food-related illnesses and threats.

Tasks: What key tasks will be conducted in carrying out each identified strategy?

Task:

1. Coordinate and perform vulnerability assessments of the food supply on a statewide basis and maintain a secure database of assessments.
2. Coordinate on a regional basis; the collection of foodborne illness reports, consumer complaints, and food tampering reports through the use of standardized reporting systems.
3. Enhance trace-back capabilities.
4. Develop a statewide and regional response plans, including a state and regional directory of food emergency personnel, and capacity to respond to a food related event.
5. Develop a state and regional food security risk rating system.
6. Conduct and improve environmental investigations associated with food related illnesses and events.
7. Conduct and improve sampling procedures related to food related illnesses and events.
8. Provide food security education and resources through the development of guidelines, brochures, and fact sheets.
9. Incorporate food security awareness in sponsored/provided training events, especially those related to foodborne illness investigation training.
10. Develop and deploy a computerized, web-based communication, surveillance, inspection, and assessment system to enhance the ability to respond and contain a food related event.

Timeline: What are the critical milestones and completion dates for each task?

Task	Milestone(s)	Completion Date(s)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assessment and review of all food facilities, including; farms, processors, and retail establishments	On-going. For processors, this activity has become a "SOP". Assessments will also be conducted at the producer and retail ends of the "farm to table" continuum.

Task	Milestone(s)	Completion Date(s)
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect all relevant forms • Establish base-line information to be collected • Implement 	Six Months
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train staff 	On-going
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop regional template • Collect directory listings • Modify template for MA use • Distribute • Conduct training • Organize a Food and Agriculture Stakeholder Advisory Group • Develop a Food Security Plan for agricultural operations. 	Nine Months
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish regional risk parameters • Modify for MA use • Prioritize food facilities based upon security risk 	Six Months for establishing rating Nine Months to begin risk assignment to facilities. On-going thereafter
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop standards • Train investigatory staff • Employ Geographical Information System (GIS) systems for farm and processor locations. 	On-going
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop standards • Identify and procure necessary equipment 	Twelve Months
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and disseminate materials • Create Best Management Practice guides for growers 	On-going
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop modules 	On-going

Task	Milestone(s)	Completion Date(s)
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify developer Assist in development/modification of system Purchase hardware Field-test system Deploy 	Twelve Months

Responsible Parties: Identify the person(s) and/or entity assigned to complete each task.

- Task #1 - BT Coordinator; Food and Drug Inspectors; in-kind FPP staff; DFA staff
- Task #2 - BT Coordinator; Veterinary Health Officer
- Task #3 - BT Coordinator; Veterinary Health Officer
- Task #4 - BT Coordinator; in-kind FPP staff; DFA staff
- Task #5 - BT Coordinator; Food and Drug Inspectors
- Task #6 - BT Coordinator; Food and Drug Inspectors; DFA staff
- Task #7 - BT Coordinator; Veterinary Health Officer; Food and Drug Inspectors
- Task #8 - BT Coordinator; in-kind FPP staff; DFA staff
- Task #9 - BT Coordinator; Veterinary Health Officer; In-kind FPP staff
- Task #10 - BT Coordinator; Veterinary Health Officer; Food and Drug Inspectors; In-kind FPP staff

Evaluation Metric: How will the agency determine progress toward successful completion of the overall recipient activity?

The success of these efforts will be measured by the timely development, deployment and utility of the work products cited above.